

Message Text

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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. DEFENSE DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS' MIDDLE EAST TRIP

A. KHALID OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RIYADH AGREEMENT

KING KHALID TOLD DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS HE BELIEVES THE
RIYADH MINI-SUMMIT WAS A CONSIDERABLE ACHIEVEMENT FOR SAUDI
DIPLOMACY. THE KING STATED THAT:

--THE "RIYADH AGREEMENT" COULD PAVE THE WAY FOR A
PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE LEBANESE WAR.

--HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF ARAFAT,
WHO WENT TO BAGHDAD TO SEEK WITHDRAWAL OF THE 2,500
IRAQI TROOPS.

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--THOUGH THE EXACT COMPOSITION OF THE PEACE-KEEPING FORCE HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED, MUCH OF IT WILL BE SYRIAN, AS THE PLO SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT SYRIAN ELEMENTS BE INCLUDED.

--THE SUPERVISING POWERS WANT PEACE FOR LEBANON; THOSE WHO OPPOSE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENTS WILL BE PUT DOWN--IF NECESSARY BY MILITARY FORCE.

MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE SULTAN SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD CLEMENTS THAT THE SAG WILL ASSIST WITH THE COSTS OF THE PEACE-KEEPING FORCE, BUT WILL BE UNABLE TO AUGMENT THE 1,000 TROOPS IT HAS IN LEBANON.

B. "SAUDIS KEEP THE OIL PRICES DOWN"

SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRINCE ABDALLAH TOLD DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS ON OCTOBER 21 THAT THE US HAS FAILED TO RECOGNIZE SAUDI ARABIA'S SINGLE-HANDED IMPOSITION OF A LID ON OPEC OIL PRICES. ABDALLAH SAID THAT, WHILE OTHER COUNTRIES ARE OPPOSED TO MAJOR PRICE INCREASES, ONLY THE SAUDIS HAVE THE NERVE TO SAY SO AT OPEC MEETINGS. THE SAG ACTED AS IT DID OUT OF A FEELING OF RESPONSIBILITY TO THE FREE WORLD. THE PRINCE ASKED THAT THE US MAKE DEMARCHES TO THOSE GOVERNMENTS (UNSPECIFIED) WHICH PUT THE GREATEST PRESSURE ON THE SAUDIS FOR THEIR STAND.

C. BAHRAIN BARGAINS OVER BASES

IN RESPONSE TO DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS' QUESTION OF OCTOBER 24 ON THE TENURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST FORCE IN BAHRAIN, FOREIGN MINISTER KHALIFA, IN THE PRESENCE OF THE AMIR, RESPONDED THAT:

--BAHRAIN FEELS THE "LONELY BURDEN" OF HOSTING A GREAT POWER BASE IS TOO GREAT IN THE ABSENCE OF OPEN REGIONAL SUPPORT, WHICH ITS NEIGHBORS HAVE DECLINED TO GIVE.

--IN THE ABSENCE OF A "NEW FORMULA," THE GOB MUST
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STICK TO ITS JUNE, 1977, DEPARTURE DATE FOR THE FORCE.

--AT PRESENT, THE GOB HAS "NOTHING NEW TO SAY" ON THE SUBJECT, BUT WOULD DISCUSS FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS WITH THE US.

IN A SEPARATE DISCUSSION WITH MR. CLEMENTS, BAHRAINI DEFENSE MINISTER SHAIKH HAMAD:

--REVEALED A FIVE-TO-SEVEN YEAR DEFENSE FORCE EXPANSION PLAN INVOLVING PURCHASES OF F-5'S AND OTHER MILITARY HARDWARE;

--RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE SUGGESTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF BAHRAIN'S DEFENSE NEEDS; AND

--REMARKED, IN CLOSING, THAT HE FELT HIS AMERICAN FRIENDS SHOULD BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE NAVY REMAINING IN BAHRAIN. (SECRET) JIDDA 6937 (LIMDIS); (CONFIDENTIAL) 6961, AND (CONFIDENTIAL) MANAMA 1681 AND 1682 (EXDIS), 10/24.)

2. CHINESE SKEPTICAL ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS

DISMISSING RECENT CONCILIATORY SIGNALS FROM MOSCOW AS MERE PROPAGANDA, A CHINESE EMBASSY OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY MOSCOW THAT THE USSR IS NOT SERIOUS ABOUT IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH CHINA. HE CLAIMED THAT:

--THE VIRTUAL CESSATION OF SOVIET ANTI-CHINESE PROPAGANDA DOES NOT SIGNAL A SHIFT IN POLICY; ONLY THE MANNER OF PRESENTATION HAS BEEN ALTERED.

--MOSCOW HOPES TO PLACE ITSELF IN A FAVORABLE LIGHT, IMPLYING THAT THE CHINESE ARE TO BLAME FOR THE BILATERAL IMPASSE.

--NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON THE CENTRAL BILATERAL ISSUE--THE BORDER PROBLEM--BECAUSE THE SOVIETS HAVE NEVER ACCEPTED THE BASIC TERMS AGREED TO BY CHOU AND KOSYGIN IN 1969. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 16604, 10/21.)

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3. AUSTRALIA: SOVIET PRESENCE RUFFLES PEACOCK'S FEATHERS

FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK TOLD AMBASSADOR HARGROVE OCTOBER 22 THAT THE INCREASED SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC SHOULD BE COUNTERACTED. WITHOUT WISHING TO EXAGGERATE THE SOVIET THREAT, PEACOCK SAID HE WILL:

--SEND A CABLE TO THE SECRETARY DETAILING HIS CONCERNS AND PROPOSING MEASURES THAT AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND THE US SHOULD TAKE;

--AUGMENT AUSTRALIAN AID TO THE AREA; AND

--MONITOR CLOSELY SOVIET AND CHINESE ACTIVITIES IN

WESTERN SAMOA, WITH WHICH AUSTRALIA HAS CLOSE RELATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) CANBERRA 7707, 10/22.)

4. PORTUGUESE MILITARY: RIGHT HAND FEARS WHAT LEFT IS DOING

TENSIONS IN THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY HAVE BEEN HEIGHTENED BY NORTHERN REGIONAL COMMANDER PIRES VELOSO'S ACCUSATION THAT THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) IS UNREPRESENTATIVE. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY LISBON, VELOSO, THOUGH NO SUPPORTER OF THE FAR RIGHT, IS FAST BECOMING THE HERO OF MODERATE AND RIGHTIST MILITARY OFFICERS WHO SEE THE RC AS BIASED IN FAVOR OF THE LEFT. WHILE THE EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE A COUP ATTEMPT IS IMMINENT, RUMORS TO THAT EFFECT:

--SEEM CREDIBLE IN LIGHT OF THE MILITARY'S PREEMINENT POLITICAL ROLE; AND

--MAY HAVE A DESTABILIZING EFFECT ON THE GOVERNMENT AT A TIME WHEN IT NEEDS THE SOLID BACKING OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR STRONG ECONOMIC MEASURES. (SECRET) LISBON 7213, 10/21.)

5. UK TO MOVE REINFORCEMENTS TO BELIZE

BRITISH CONSUL MCQUILLAN TOLD EMBASSY GUATEMALA ON OCTOBER
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22 THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA REACTED "GRAVELY" WHEN INFORMED IN BROAD TERMS OF THE UK'S INTENTION TO INCREASE ITS MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN BELIZE. THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT THE GOG WILL CERTAINLY GO AHEAD NOW WITH ITS OWN MOVEMENT OF HOWITZERS AND MAY SEND OTHER REINFORCEMENTS TO THE BELIZE BORDER AREA. THE GOG IS ALSO LIKELY TO EXPLOIT PUBLICLY THE BRITISH ACTION. (SECRET) GUATEMALA 7301, 10/22.) KISSINGER

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